

## Message Text

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70

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SAM-01 CU-04 NIC-01 OMB-01 ACDA-19 SAJ-01

DRC-01 /131 W

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R 281604Z FEB 74

FM AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6607

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE FRANKFURT 1306

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, PINT, GW

SUBJECT: POLITICAL REACTION TO VIOLENT DEMONSTRATIONS

1. SUMMARY: SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY (SPD) OFFICIALS AT FEDERAL, STATE AND MUNICIPAL LEVELS, SENSING THAT VIOLENT DEMONSTRATIONS LED BY SPD-DOMINATED UNIVERSITY STUDENT COUNCIL IN FRANKFURT LAST WEEKEND WILL DAMAGE PARTY'S PROSPECTS IN STATE AND LOCAL ELECTIONS BEING HELD THIS YEAR, HAVE STORNGLY CONDEMNED "ANTI-CONSTITUTIONAL AND CRIMINAL ELEMENTS" WHO ABUSED FREEDOM OF DEMONSTRATON AND POLITICAL EXPRESSION. STRONG FACTION IN FRANKFURT SPD, HOWEVER, SYMPATHIZES WITH DEMONSTRATORS; AND ISSUE MAY PLAY ROLE IN CHOICE OF NEW PARTY CHAIRMAN AT MARCH 2-3 CONVENTION. END SUMMARY.

2. FEBRUARY 23 DEMONSTRATON TO PROTEST PEACEFUL EVACUATION OF ILLEGALLY OCCUPIED HOUSES TWO DAYS BEFORE WAS SPONSORED AND CONDUCTED BY STUDENT COUNCIL (ASTA), WHICH IS DOMINATED BY VARIOUS LEFT-WING SPD ELEMENTS. ALTHOUGH ONLY TWENTY PERCENT OF EVICTED OCCUPANTS WERE STUDENTS, HOUSES ARE IN VICINTIY OF UNIVERSITY.

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RADICAL STUDENTS HAVE SEIZED ON ISSUE TO BEDEVIL

MORE MODERATE SPD PUBLIC OFFICE HOLDERS, WHO ARE OBLIGED TO ENFORCE LAWS AND PROTECT INTERESTS OF PROPERTY OWNERS. DEMONSTRATION DID NOT SET RECORDS FOR SIZE (SOME 3,500), INJURIES 'ABOUT THIRTY POLICE AND AT LEAST 80 DEMONSTRATORS) OR NUMBER ARRESTED (ABOUT 135, OF WHOM APPROX. 90 WERE STUDENTS) BUT WAS ESPECIALLY ALARMING BECAUSE, FOR FIRST TIME IN SIX YEARS, ENTIRE AVAILABLE POLICE FORCE WAS COMMITTED. WINDOWS BROKEN ALONG PARADE ROUTE, AND POLICE DELIBERATELY ASSAULTED BY HELMETED, MASKED GANGS OF DEMONSTRATORS AS PARADE ENDED. SOME OF THOSE ARRESTED CAME FROM AS FAR AWAY AS RUHR.

3. LORD MAYOR ARNDT (SPD) IMMEDIATELY BRANDED VIOLENCE AS ATTEMPT TO OVERTHROW CONSTITUTIONAL ORDER UNDER GUISE OF POLICIAL PROTEST; SYMPATHIZERS PLACED THEMSELVES OUTSIDE CONSTITUTION. RESOLUTION BY SPD FACTION IN CITY PARLIAMENT (ADOPTED AGAINST FOUR VOTES) CONDEMNED CRIMINAL VIOLENCE AND PRAISED POLICE. HESSEN MINISTER-PRESIDENT OSSWALD (SPD) DENOUNCED "CRIMINAL ACTIONS", AND SPECIAL LAND CABINET MEETING GRANTED EXTRA DM5 MILLION TO POLICE FOR ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT. CHANCELLOR BRANDT (SPD) JOINED OSSWALD AND ARNDT IN PRAISING RESTRAINT OF POLICE, WHO DID NOT RESORT TO GUNS DESPITE DANGER TO THEIR LIVES AND SAFETY. UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT KANTZENBACK (SPD) BLOCKED ASTA FUNDS, WHICH COME FROM COMPULSORY FEES PAID BY ALL STUDENTS. NEVERTHELESS, SPD LOCAL CHAPTER IN WESTEND, WHERE VIOLENCE OCCURRED, AND FRANKFURT YOUNG SOCIALIST (JUSO) ORGANIZATION HAVE EXPRESSED SYMPATHY FOR DEMONSTRATORS, CONDEMNED "POLICE BRUTALITY", AND AGAIN CALLED FOR DISMISSAL OF POLICE CHIEF MUELLER (SPD).

4. ANNUAL CONVENTION OF FRANKFURT SPD TO BE HELD THIS WEEKEND WILL CHOOSE BETWEEN CANDIDATES OF PRO-ARNDT LEFT-CENTER FACTION AND ULTRA-LEFT FACTION A NEW CHAIRMAN TO SUCCEED FEDERAL STATE SECRETARY ZANDER. ULTRA-LEFT FACTION, WHICH ALSO SYMPATHIZES WITH DEMONSTRATORS, CURRENTLY HAS 2-1 MAJORITY ON PARTY BOARD AND SEEMS TO HAVE EDGE IN DELEGATE STRENGTH FOR THIS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CONVENTION. IF THIS GROUP RETAINS CONTROL, IT WILL CONTINUE TO PORTRAY DIVISION WITHIN PARTY AND EMBARRASS SPD OFFICE HOLDERS. HARLAN

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, STUDENTS, UNIVERSITIES, ELECTIONS, CASUALTIES  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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